



The Fifth Annual AHATA Environmental Committee Recycled Art Competition

Turning trash into treasure reaps rewards for these innovative artists!

On Friday afternoon, May 20, the winners of the Fifth Annual AHATA Recycled Art Competition and Expo were announced in the Bibliotica Nacional in San Nicolas. The fantastic collection of works, created by reprocessing refuse into art had been on display at the library for the preceding week, and the week before at the Bibliotica Nacional in Oranjestad. Again, the judges were at a loss to choose amongst this collection of creative and often practical pieces that displayed enormous ingenuity and creativity, but choose they must.

In the Individual Professional Category the first place winner was Poppy Kock with a creation entitled "Celebration" which earned her a weekend stay at the Aruba Resort, Spa & Casino. Second place went to Lizayra Carlo, last year's first place winner and third to Jarissa Dubero, who won dinners for two at the Divi Village and Bucuti Resort respectively.

In the amateur category, Lucia Maduro won a half day passport to De Palm Island for her "Plastic Place Mats," and Blanca Theysen will enjoy a dinner at the Divi Tamarijn for her second place "Blue Tulip Fantasy." Young Mary-Ann Christianns, third place winner for the a "Drunken Fish" made of beer bottle caps, will not only enjoy a dinner for two at the Sunset Beach Bistro, she will also travel to Orlando with her mother and father courtesy of American Airlines. Mary-Ann also took first place in the essay contest where she explained why being environmentally conscientious is important to her, which won her the Grand Prize trip to Florida.

In the Hotel/Business category, Ronald Nortan of the Divi Phoenix Resort again "took home the gold" or in this case, a weekend stay at the Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort, for his magnificent bouquet of discarded condiment containers amongst other materials. Manuel Chalgut, also of the Divi Phoenix received a dinner of fine seafood at the Aquarius Buffet, Li Py from the Costa Linda took third place with her mini version of the resort, and she will enjoy the Let's go Latin show. Both awards are courtesy of the Renaissance Resort. Schools received a cash prize from WEB, N.V. for their collected works and tickets from Meta Corp for the Aruba Panorama Movie in the Crystal Theater. The winner of the Elementary grade level from one to three award went to the International School of Aruba, Kukwisa School won for grades four to six and LaSalle College won for the best Secondary School entry.

Astrid Mueller, President of the AHATA Environmental Committee presided over the informal awards ceremony, assisted by student from the IPA, the teacher training school of Aruba.

The various works submitted by individual artists and institutions, as always, showed great creativity and surprising beauty. What can be accomplished with broken glass, discarded soda cans, and plastic containers is truly amazing with just a bit of ingenuity and vision, and is a pleasure to behold. The winners certainly deserve their rewards, but the greater reward is to the community, in the evidence that there is much to be accomplished by turning trash into treasure!